

Washington, DC – U.S. Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23) announced new legislation Tuesday aimed at expanding and preserving the historical Missions of San Antonio. The bill will provide for a new education center and authorize a study of lands to be included within the Park's boundary.

"This bill will preserve and expand one of our community's most treasured legacies, the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park," said Congressman Rodriguez. "I'm pleased to be part of a broad partnership to keep them intact and available to the public for education and recreational purposes. Together, we will restore these neighborhoods to their historic beauty and preserve our history while supporting future growth and development."

Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff said the legislation helps further existing efforts to promote the area.

"This proposed legislation fits perfectly into what we are already doing with the Mission Reach of the River Improvements Project, and the new effort to create organized planning, development and maintenance efforts with all of our partners for this culturally rich area," Judge Wolff said. "The San Antonio River -- the core of our city and county -- will once again tie into the Missions National Historical Park, and it only makes sense that the park be able to expand its boundaries to reflect the importance of the Missions to our heritage."

Partnerships are critical to keeping the Missions National Historical Park thriving. The non-profit organization Los Compadres de San Antonio Missions National Historical Park has stepped in to raise funds for preservation, development and education projects.

"The San Antonio Missions National Historical Park is a national model for collaborative efforts," said Sue Ann Garcia, Board Chairman of Los Compadres. "The private sector, the Catholic Archdiocese and all levels of local and state governments have worked for 80 years to preserve and develop the four southern missions into America's premier urban national park and to preserve them for future generations." The legislation, which has received the support of the entire Bexar County Congressional delegation, will be filed this week once the House of Representatives is back in session.

###